

REMARKS

Kindly reconsider and allow claims 145-151.

History:

Claims 146-151 were previously indicated as allowable on page 5, paragraph 7 of the April 1, 2003 office action.

Claims 145-151, excepting claim 148, were rejected as anticipated by Wipper 102(b).

Argument:

In supporting anticipation, the examiner has made assumptions neither stated in, found in nor supported by Wipper, for example 1) "saw tooth", 2) "similar saw tooth shaped profile", 3) "cavity closure region", 4) "entire rear half section", 5) "ribs have a U-shaped profile".

Upon reconsideration, it is believed the examiner will not find those assumptions to be correct.

1. Nothing in Wipper supports "saw tooth". The wide spacing of ribs 68 in Figure 2, 84 in Figure 3 and 126 in Figure 6 leads away from "saw-tooth-like shapes" in claims 145-151. The examiner has made an unsupported assumption not based on Wipper.
2. Nothing in Wipper suggests "similar saw tooth shaped profile". It is impossible to see how widely spaced ribs 68, 84 and 126 would be considered a similar saw tooth shaped profile.
3. Nothing in Wipper mentions a cavity closure region or that saw tooth shapes be positioned in a cavity closure region.
4. To find that a cavity closure region is an "entire rear half section" has no basis in Wipper.
5. In Wipper ribs do not have "a U-shaped profile". Profile of ribs is not discussed in

Wipper, but ribs 68, 84 and 126 are all shown as small widely spaced triangular shaped cross-sections.

Figure 3 illustrates "... ribs 84 extending from the bow to the stern of the vessel."

(Column 7, lines 37-38) Ribs 68 and 126 in Wipper are shown extending bow to stern.

Saw-tooth-like shape has its ordinary meaning - shaped like the teeth of a saw or:

"having a wave form resembling the teeth of a saw and of a quality that varies periodically, either gradually or gradually and abruptly between two peak values". P. 2021 Webster's Third International Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Inc. 1981.

Differences between claims 145-151 and Wipper:

Claim 145 points out "a series of substantially symmetrical saw-tooth-like shapes on the surface in a cross section of the cavity closure region".

That feature is not found in and is not anticipated or even suggested by Wipper.

The purpose of that new feature is described in the paragraph beginning on line 10 of page 9:

"The ridges serve to direct the splash sideward and rearward instead of directly forward, thus reducing disturbances at cavity closure."

Nothing in Wipper has that structure, purpose, function or result.

Claims 146-151 depend from claim 145 and distinguish the invention from Wipper.

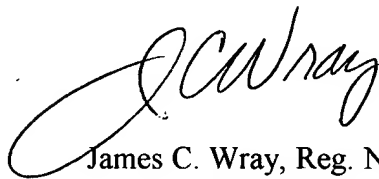
Claim 148 has been indicated as allowable.

Claims 145-151 point out features not found in Wipper and should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JC Wray', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

James C. Wray, Reg. No. 22,693
Meera P. Narasimhan, Reg. No. 40,252
1493 Chain Bridge Road
Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22101
Tel: (703) 442-4800
Fax: (703) 448-7397

Date: February 9, 2004